

R-909-2-7 Variable Load Axles

(1) Vehicles with variable load axles are limited as follows:

(a) no more than three fixed axles shall be allowed in any group;

(b) retractable or variable load suspension axles installed after January 1990 shall be self steering on power units or when augmenting a tridem group on trailers;

(i) Non-divisible loads may be exempt from these restrictions upon written approval from the division.

(c) no axle in a group with a retractable or VLS axle shall exceed legal or bridge formula weight requirements, or the manufacturer's tire rating; and

(d) Controls for raising or lowering retractable or VLS axles may be located in the cab of the power unit. The pressure regulator valve shall be positioned outside of the cab and be inaccessible from the driver's compartment.

Definition

(23) "Implement of husbandry" means every vehicle designed or adapted and used exclusively for an agricultural operation and only incidentally operated or moved upon the highways.

72-7-401. Application of size, weight, and load limitations for vehicles -- Exceptions.

(1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2), the maximum size, weight, and load limitations on vehicles under this part apply to all highways throughout the state.

(b) Local authorities may not alter the limitations except as expressly provided under Sections 41-6a-204 and 72-7-408.

(2) Except as specifically made applicable, the size, weight, and load limitations in this chapter do not apply to:

(a) fire-fighting apparatus;

(b) highway construction and maintenance equipment being operated at the site of maintenance or at a construction project as authorized by a highway authority;

(c) highway construction and maintenance equipment temporarily being operated between a material site and a highway maintenance site or a highway construction project if:

(i) the section of any highway being used is not located within a county of the first or second class;

(ii) authorized for a specific highway project by the highway authority having jurisdiction over each highway being used;

(iii) the distance between the material site and maintenance site or highway construction project does not exceed 10 miles; and

(iv) the operator carries in the vehicle written verification of the authorization from the highway authority having jurisdiction over each highway being used;

(d) implements of husbandry incidentally moved on a highway while engaged in an agricultural operation or incidentally moved for repair or servicing, subject to the provisions of Section 72-7-407;

(e) vehicles transporting logs or poles from forest to sawmill:

(i) when required to move upon a highway other than the national system of interstate and defense highways;

- (ii) if the gross vehicle weight does not exceed 80,000 pounds; and
- (iii) the vehicle or combination of vehicles are in compliance with Subsections 72-7-404(1) and (2)(a); and
- (f) tow trucks or towing vehicles under emergency conditions when:
 - (i) it becomes necessary to move a vehicle, combination of vehicles, special mobile equipment, or objects to the nearest safe area for parking or temporary storage;
 - (ii) no other alternative is available; and
 - (iii) the movement is for the safety of the traveling public.
- (3) (a) Except when operating on the national system of interstate and defense highways, a motor vehicle carrying livestock as defined in Section 4-1-8, or a motor vehicle carrying raw grain if the grain is being transported by the farmer from his farm to market prior to bagging, weighing, or processing, may exceed by up to 2,000 pounds the tandem axle weight limitations specified under Section 72-7-404 without obtaining an overweight permit under Section 72-7-406.
- (b) Subsection (3)(a) is an exception to Sections 72-7-404 and 72-7-406.

72-7-407. Implements of husbandry -- Escort vehicle requirements -- Oversize permit -- Penalty.

- (1) As used in this section, "escort vehicle" means a motor vehicle, as defined under Section 41-1a-102, that has its emergency warning lights operating, and that is being used to warn approaching motorists by either preceding or following a slow or oversized vehicle, object, or implement of husbandry being moved on the highway.
- (2) An implement of husbandry being moved on a highway shall be accompanied by:
 - (a) front and rear escort vehicles when the implement of husbandry is 16 feet in width or greater unless the implement of husbandry is moved by a farmer or rancher or the farmer or rancher's employees in connection with an agricultural operation; or
 - (b) one or more escort vehicles when the implement of husbandry is traveling on a highway where special hazards exist related to weather, pedestrians, other traffic, or highway conditions.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (2), a person may not move an implement of husbandry on a highway during hours of darkness without lights and reflectors as required under Section 41-6a-1608 or 41-6a-1609.

(4) (a) Except for an implement of husbandry moved by a farmer or rancher or the farmer's or rancher's employees in connection with an agricultural operation, a person may not move an implement of husbandry on the highway without:

- (i) an oversize permit obtained under Section 72-7-406 if required;
- (ii) trained escort vehicle drivers and approved escort vehicles when required under Subsection (2); and
- (iii) compliance with the vehicle weight requirements of Section 72-7-404.

(b) (i) The department shall issue an annual oversize permit for the purpose of allowing the movement of implements of husbandry on the highways in accordance with this chapter.

(ii) The permit shall require the applicant to obtain verbal permission from the department for each trip involving the movement of an implement of husbandry 16 feet or greater in width.

(5) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Utah Trucking Guide

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY MOVED BY A FARMER

UCA 72-7-407

Implements of husbandry moved by a farmer, rancher or his employees in connection with an agricultural operation are exempt from permitting requirements provided the following conditions are met:

Front and rear escort vehicles are required when the implement is 16 feet in width.

One or more escort vehicles are required when the implement is traveling on a highway where special hazards exist.

Note: Special hazards are defined as extreme weather conditions and/or highway construction or maintenance projects.

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY PERMITS

UCA 72-7-407

Except as described above, implements of husbandry being moved upon a highway are authorized to purchase annual oversize permits in compliance with the following:

Prior to transporting loads that exceed 16 feet in width and/or 14 feet in height contact the Motor Carrier Division to obtain routing.

Prior to transporting loads in excess of 14 feet in width on unfamiliar or unusual routes contact the nearest Port of Entry for routing. See the Utah Agency Directory Section for information.